

WAIROA

We are sorry to record that we are losing seven of our Church workers at one blow. The whole staff of our kindergarten has gone—Miss Joan Deighton to the Training College, Christchurch, Misses Joan and Marie Prebble to Solway, Masterton, and Miss Gladys Marshall to Napier High School. Their places are being filled by Miss Coker, Miss Dot Davies, Miss Doris Moles and Miss Matson. Another loss has been inflicted on us by the removal of Mr McNatty to Rotorua and of Mr Gover to Auckland. Mr McNatty has been a great part of the choir and in all branches of church work. Mr Gover has been of great assistance in the social work of the parish. At a farewell on Wednesday evening, 12th February, small presentations were made and good wishes expressed by the vicar on behalf of the congregation.

The bishop will administer confirmation at Wairoa on Friday, March 6, at 7.30 p.m. We have only a few candidates this year.

WOMEN'S RETREAT (1936)

(By One Who Was There)

About 14 Church workers and others assembled at the Hukarere School on the 28th January for the annual retreat. Several were debarred from attending by other duties and regretted it much. Those who have never been in retreat can hardly realise the rest and refreshment which comes from a few days spent in worship, meditation and communion with God in the strict silence usual on these occasions. To make a good retreat, we have to put aside firmly all worldly cares and thoughts and fix our minds on heavenly things. To each one of us comes the time, sooner or later, when we leave this world, and all material things and pass into the intermediate state till the great day of judgment. A retreat gives us the opportunity, in a small degree, to realise this state, and review our lives, aims, and actions to see that they are in accordance with God's Will.

We were sorry the Rev. Edmund Cowie was unable to be with us to conduct and direct our meditations. The King's death kept him in his parish unavoidably. We were very grateful to Deaconess Esther Brand

for making it possible to have the Retreat at all. In place of the usual addresses she read us some valuable meditations written specially for retreat by Canon Body. All the domestic details were arranged well and carried out smoothly and a very happy and helpful time resulted. The bishop celebrated the Holy Eucharist each morning and Canon Mortimer Jones kindly gave us his services on Thursday afternoon.

PARISH NOTES.**WOODVILLE**

The vicar would like to return thanks for the many kind messages of sympathy extended to him after the death of his only sister, Mrs R. M. Paterson, of Arrowtown, in the South Island.

The Sunday School has re-opened and Miss Sheen's absence is keenly felt, but the staff is carrying on nobly with some new help and a teachers' class is held on Wednesday evenings—our lessons are taken from the trowel, an Australian Church of England scheme which has been used here for the last two years and is very good. The Kumeroa Branch of the Sunday School has lost the valuable services of Miss Valerie Toogood and until some other teacher appears the vicar must take the whole school of twenty-seven children, which is difficult considering the range of ages of the scholars.

At a meeting after evensong one Sunday the congregation authorised the purchase of a lawn mower, and a working bee is being arranged to get the grounds once more in good order and subscriptions have been offered for the purpose of paying a man to keep the grounds in neat and trim order.

The Woodville Church grounds are at last beginning to look well—a lot of work has been done by Mr Kenyon and Mr Bailey with help from Mr Nowell and Mr C. Turner—the members of the vestry are taking monthly turns to mow the lawns and clean the paths—since the removal of the laurel hedge and the erection of the brick fence it is more imperative than ever that the grounds should be neat and carefully attended to.

The vestry are planning to meet the travelling expenses of the vicar in car upkeep, etc., to back up the Standing Committee of the Diocese which has increased the grant to the parish for this special purpose. Will parishioners help as the vicar has borne all car expenses for nearly five years and it meant to be for one?

G. W. DAVIDSON.

CHURCH MUSIC

The Summer School of English Church Music was held at St. Mark's Church, Te Aroha, from January 7th to the 10th, when representatives of affiliated choirs attended from various parts of the Dominion.

The school opened with evensong intoned by Canon Turner at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening. Later, the visitors were welcomed at a social when various delegates spoke of the work of their particular choir and a humorous discourse on the doings of chapel work at a preparatory school was given by Mr Stuart Panting.

Holy Communion was celebrated at 7.30 a.m. the following morning and at 10 o'clock the session opened with a recorded lecture by Dr. Nicholson and the demonstration records of the Church services sung by the choir of St. Nicholas College. This was followed by a review of the pointing of various psalters, specimen psalms from which were sung by those present. This opportunity of actually testing existent psalters left no doubt as to the superiority of the Parish Psalter, so strongly recommended by the S.E.C.M.

In the afternoon the report of the Archbishops' Committee on "Music in Worship" was read and interesting side-lights on the efforts and success of putting these ideals into practice in New Zealand were revealed in the discussion that followed.

The evening was spent on Carols from the Cowley, Oxford, English, and Cambridge Carol anthologies.

Thursday's sessions were given over to Hymnody. Mr Stuart Panting read extracts on the selection and rendering of hymns of all types from works by Sir Henry Hadow, Dr. Harvey Grace, John Newton, and Dr. Nicholson. The accompaniment of plainsong, and the use of descant, faux-bourdon and free accompani-